



February 2022

BTT Members,

The BTT Board hope you will find this newsletter useful and informative.

If you wish to comment or include something in the publication, please contact the Chair:

Jonathan@hazells.co.uk

Or the Secretary:

gayerynsardbtt@gmail.com

The Board values your feedback and contributions.



Chair's Comments

Dear Friends and Members

This is our first Newsletter of the year and I am sure we are all looking forward to a more relaxed and enjoyable year ahead with friends and family.

There have been some changes at the Trust of which you may be aware. After four years at the helm Peter Riddington has retired as Chair and has also stepped down from the Board. The Board Members have thanked Peter for all his hard work for

the Trust during his time. We are delighted that he has offered to keep in touch with the Board and will continue to act as a Trust representative on projects where his expertise is much required.

I would encourage all members to visit the BTT website and take a look at the gazetteer of Non-Designated Assets, which is a brief record from external observation of all non-listed properties within the town central conservation area and comments on the buildings/street contribution towards the designation; see: <https://burystedmundstowntrust.org.uk/heritage-assets/> This substantial piece of work was inspired and substantially undertaken by Peter.

I have been Vice Chair for a number of years and the Board kindly asked me to become Chair, which I was pleased to accept. We are fortunate that Aoife O'Gorman has agreed to become the new Vice Chair and Paul Rynsard the new Deputy Chair.

For those that do not know me, I am managing director of Hazells Chartered Surveyors, which specialises in commercial property, land development and property management. Aoife is a director of Infinity Architects based in the town centre who has wide experience with heritage buildings and Paul is the former managing partner of Feilden & Mawson Architects. For those who would like further information on all the Board members, please visit our web site at <https://burystedmundstowntrust.org.uk/>

[trustees/](#) We enjoy a rich pool of experience and talent to call upon.

Thank you to all those that braved the cold, dark and dare I say Covid concerns to appear in person at our AGM in November at the Unitarian Meeting House.

Many thanks to all those involved and particularly to Paul Rynsard and Peter Riddington for providing an interesting presentation updating the works to date at 11 High Baxter Street.

We also welcomed the ratification of Caroline Commins as a new Board member. On Board matters, we were also pleased at our most recent board meeting to co-opt Alan Wilkinson who has already taken great strides in taking over much of the work undertaken by John Popham in respect of our involvement with West Suffolk College.

Over the coming months we shall continue to concentrate on bringing forward the completion of works at High Baxter Street and there will be more to report on this project in the future. With the relaxation of Covid regulations we sincerely hope to involve relevant College students in some of the ongoing works.

There are other projects also taking form which we shall be pleased to comment further upon in the coming year. In the meantime, please do keep in touch with the Trust, our website has useful information and also contact details.

Best wishes and thank you for your continued support

Jonathan Lloyd



Membership reminder

Thank you to everyone who sent on their membership subscriptions. However, there are still a few subscriptions to collect for this year though.

Our bank details are Bury Town Trust at Barclays Bury St Edmunds, sort code 20-16-12, account no 30225738.

Annual membership is £12 per person, or £18 for a couple.

Please contact me if you have any questions about your membership at carolinecommins@gmail.com or 07966 302125

Caroline Commins

Membership Secretary



11 High Baxter Street

Project progress has been slow over the last couple of months mainly due to a delay in getting UKPN to site to install a mains cable in a new location.

When this is completed, the wall can be moved and the new custom-built staircase installed. This will mark the conclusion of our Stage 2 works and we can move onto Stage 3 which move us towards completing the building.



The Board's working group are now in the process of tendering these works whilst exploring the opportunities to introduce an air source heat pump, under floor heating and further insulation.

When Stage 2 works has been completed, we will be holding some open house type events for members to view the work. Due to Covid, we are sorry you have not had the opportunity to do this since we purchased the house.

In March, we will also be able to start our West Suffolk College student visits in support of their building conservation courses. The first students will be from the Construction Management course and others will follow. We hope to be able to provide some practical experiences as we move into Stage 3 work.

Keep an eye on our Instagram account - @burystedstowntrust - where we have been putting photographs showing progress and some interesting aspects of the work.

Paul Rynsard

What can Building Materials in and around Bury Tell us?

Sarah Breiter

(Phd Candidate at Northwestern University
Department of Anthropology)

My project focuses on buildings constructed between 1450 and 1700, an important period in Suffolk with several social and political changes taking place.

I approach buildings as a series of relationships, between the householder and carpenter, carpenter and woodlands, and woodlands with community. The way the timber, brick, stone and flint are used within a building is connected to what was available to both the carpenter and the household during a particular point in time. By looking at building materials, I am looking at their source, and therefore, the relationships that govern their access and use by the local community. I am comparing these relationships throughout this 250-year period.

The relationships between local communities, landowners, builders, and their natural resources shifted during this period. In and around Bury St. Edmunds, the wool market had become increasingly important, with the local economy shifting from subsistence agriculture to the production of wool and textiles for profit. A group of prosperous peasants and merchants became increasingly

wealthy by participating in wool trade, and they began to use building materials that were previously inaccessible to non-elite people. Most of the buildings I am studying were constructed by this social class.

The dissolution of the Abbey of St. Edmunds served as an important catalyst, with the vast woodlands and rentals being sold off through the crown to private landowners. These natural resources went from being managed by a single, powerful institution to multiple, smaller landowners who may have shifted how they managed the lands and rentals.

I am interested in whether these shifts, from the transition of the local economy from feudalism to agrarian capitalism, as well as the change in local landowning, influenced the way people managed natural resources. This is visible in the way people used building materials. One of the metrics I am measuring, for example, is the width of timbers used in the framing of buildings. It is directly related to the age of tree when it was cut down, which can then be related back to woodland management practices. With enough of this single measurement, taken from many different buildings, with phases dated to between 1450 and 1700, I can compare any changes from this time, and see if there was a shift in felling cycles. Other important measurements include: the use of reused timber and limestone, the introduction of brick, the use of flint, and whether any of these increases, decreases, or stays the same through time. Overall, the

buildings of Bury St. Edmunds have the capacity to provide important information about landscapes that are no longer visible and woodlands that are no longer standing.

The Board received the above article from Sarah, who contacted Peter Riddington with regards to the 11 HBS renovation.

We decided to her fascinating and informative findings in the Newsletter and hope you find this interesting.

